Covert Action Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 50272 Washington, DC 20004 (202) 265-3904

Lade Brief Control of the Party IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

COVERTACTION INFORMATION BULLETIN

CALLS PRESS CONFERENCE

TO REFUTE ATTACKS BY MEDIA AND CONGRESS

Monday, July 21, 1980 10:30 AM, East Lounge, National Press Building 14th and F Sts., Washington, DC

This Monday the Editors of the CovertAction Information Bul-<u>letin</u>, the Washington-based bi-monthly magazine which concentrates on exposing CIA abuses, operations and personnel, will appear at a press conference to respond to the recent upsurge of attacks against their publication both in Congress and by the media, including editorials in the New York Times and the Washington Poot, which the Editors have described as "vicious" and "dishonest."

They will discuss specifically the situation in Jamaica and their research and exposures there, as well as, generally, the work they do and how they do it. In addition they will discuss the campaign in Congress to ban their publication, which they view as a dangerous and unconstitutional attack upon freedom of the press, and the first step towards an Official Secrets Act in the United States.

There will be a question and answer session.

For further information, contact: William Schaap or Louis Wolf (202) 265-3904

CovertAction INFORMATION BULLETIN

Covert Action Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 50272 Washington, DC 20004 (202) 265-3904

July 18, 1980

The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

CERTIFIED MAIL

Sir:

Your recent editorial (July 14) attacking us was so unusually vicious and replete with misstatement that it requires a response.

First and foremost, you assert both that our work in exposing U.S. intelligence abuses, operations, and personnel endangers lives and that we do not care. In the course of so doing, you misquote not us, or an outsider, but your own reporter.

Not one of the several thousand CIA personnel exposed over the past several years by many publications in many countries has been harmed on account of it. Even Admiral Turner has admitted that "this enterprise," as you put it, had nothing to do with the killing of Richard Welch in Athens in 1975. As a number of publications have revealed, Mr. Welch was killed by a group stalking his predecessor shortly after he had moved into his predecessor's home, ignoring cabled warnings from CIA Headquarters not to live there.

More significantly, you assert that Mr. Wolf expressed "indifference," that "he doesn't care," and that, "As he told Philip Taubman of The Times, he has no qualms about the fate of individuals." As Mr. Taubman and his interview notes will confirm, if you ask him, Mr. Wolf expressed quite the contrary, noting that he was against violence and abhorred the inflicting of any injury to persons exposed, and pointing out that it had never, in fact, occurred and in any event was totally counter-productive, giving the CIA sympathy and support it does not deserve. Moreover it diverts attention from the real abuses we are criticizing.

Your outrage over our "mocking" of the First Amendment, even stripped of its arrogance, is quite revealing. Your publication, you assert, should decide what is "valid and necessary reporting" and what constitutes "a legitimate study of the C.I.A." Why, though, is it legitimate for your paper to expose the Pentagon Papers or destabilization by the CIA in Chile, for example, but not legitimate for the CovertAction Information Bulletin to expose destabilization in Jamaica? As Ford Rowan testified before the House Intelligence Committee in January, "The First Amendment wasn't designed to protect The New York Times; it was designed to protect people like CovertAction."

The Editor, The New York Times July 18, 1980

We should point out that, for example, shortly after the Jonestown events in Guyana we received a call from a New York Times reporter who wanted to know whatever names we had of CIA officers in Guyana. We constantly receive requests from the "establishment" media in this and many other countries requesting such information and research assistance. We have been hired by some of the most prestigious newspapers in the world to do research for them. have consistently refused, however, all requests relating to Iran, which have come to us from every major media organization in the United States, including yours. We have done so precisely because of the possibility of physical harm in that unique situation.)

When you say "the United States needs spies abroad; every country employs them," you misrepresent entirely the premises from which we operate, premises which Mr. Taubman accurately reported. We do not object to intelligence gathering; we object to the covert interference in the affairs of other nations, the refusal to let the people of those nations decide for themselves upon their leaders, their systems of government, and the forms of institutions they desire.

Finally, when you call upon the Congress to look for laws that might "get" us, without, of course, "getting" The New York Times, your outrage blinds you. There is no such law. Our research involves unclassified material, and no CIA "sources." As the American Civil Liberties Union recently reminded Congress, "no bill which is conceivably constitutional can, in fact, prevent the publication by the CovertAction Information Bulletin ... of the names of CIA officers who are assigned to positions in American embassies." They noted the conclusion of the Church Committee that "Some forms of cover do not provide concealment but offer a certain degree of deniability."

You believe that what we do is morally wrong; we believe that what we do is morally right. If you want to urge the CIA to develop better cover, that is your right. But you are asking Congress to make it a crime for private citizens to publish unclassified information obtained from unclassified sources. That you do not understand the dangerous implications of that position is saddening.

Yours, etc.,

William Schaap

Ellan KA Ellen Ray

Co-Editors,

CovertAction Information Bulletin

THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 14, 1980

Getting at the Spy Hunters

Philip Agee and Louis Wolf call themselves journalists, but the only thing they have done for journalism is to create and corner a most ghoulish part of the market. They are in the business of identifying American undercover intelligence agents and publishing their names in books and bulletins. Their purpose is to destroy the nation's covert intelligence operations. Endangering the lives of the secret agents may not be their main purpose, but that is one result of their labor, a result about which they express indifference.

Because of that indifference, it is fair to tax this enterprise with some responsibility for the assassination in 1975 of Richard Welch, the C.I.A. station chief in Athens. The armed attack 10 days ago on the home of an American embassy official in Jamaica followed soon after Mr. Wolf described that official as the C.I.A.'s station chief in Kingston. Mr. Wolf suggests without proof that the agency itself might have committed the violence, but the important thing is that he doesn't care. As he told Philip Taubman of The Times, he has no qualms about the fate of individuals. "C.I.A. covert activities are inseparable from C.I.A. people," he said.

This attitude, like the project itself, mocks the First Amendment guarantee of free speech and American respect for dissent. It invites retribution against responsible as well as reckless critics of intelligence operations. It sorely tempts society to curb these individuals in ways that curtail the liberties of all. One such excessive response was the State Department's lawless revocation of Mr. Agee's passport, an action already struck down by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington.

· We cannot match our outrage with a satisfying

solution. It should be easier to deal with Mr. Agee, a former C.I.A. agent, than with Mr. Wolf, a private citizen educated by Mr. Agee in methods of detecting agents and their covers. Present and former Government employees can be punished for misusing information they acquired in official jobs; perhaps the law can even presume that a misused secret was one derived from Government employment.

But it is not a crime, nor should it be, for a private citizen to gather and to publish information from public sources, however offensive to the Government and society. A law that would punish Mr. Wolf for publishing secret names in his Covert Action Information Bulletin could also punish a newspaper that identified an agent in the the valid and necessary reporting of events or in the course of a legitimate study of the C.I.A.

The United States needs spies abroad; every country employs them. Congress is reaffirming the need for intelligence and counterintelligence even as it strives to write a legislative charter to curb the past abuses of the C.I.A. Anyone is free to disagree with that commitment to spying and to agitate against it. But the Agee-Wolf publications exceed the bounds of dissent.

Threatening the safety of individuals ought to be distinguishable from challenging a national policy. So Congress is right to try to draw the distinction in law. But we are not yet persuaded that it can be done without jeopardizing the most precious liberties of speech and press. This is not the first attempt to use the defense of civil liberties as a shield, even for the most contemptible scoundrels. Let us look at laws that might get at them, but let us not in the process compound the damage they do.

Covert Action INFORMATION BULLETIN

Covert Action Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 50272 Washington, DC 20004 (202) 265-3904

July 18, 1980

The Editor
The Washington Star
225 Virginia Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20061

CERTIFIED MAIL

Sir:

Your recent editorial (July 17) attacking our work presents a dishonest brief for the Central Intelligence Agency to which we must respond.

Your assertion that the CIA is "long since officially declawed" is ludicrous. For more than three years, the Congress labored with no success to pass a charter for the CIA--not to declaw it, but merely to minimize the possibility of the more blatant abuses for which the CIA is noted. No significantly restrictive legislation affecting the CIA has ever been passed.

And when you refer to the CIA's activities as "undercover maneuvering ... strictly limited to collecting information," you perpetuate the CIA's favorite myth, that it is primarily an intelligence gathering agency. We have never objected to intelligence gathering; we object to covert interference in the affairs of other nations. We object to bribery, corruption, blackmail, arson, and murder, all of which have been, and remain, the operational tools of the CIA. There is no law which prevents the CIA from buying elections, operating phoney "news" services, arming "rebels," or bombing buildings, for example, all of which it does.

At least you recognize that the Intelligence Identities Protection Act is a law aimed solely at the CovertAction Information Bulletin. You do not note, however, that we are private citizens who, having never worked for the government nor signed any agreements, are researching unclassified material, and, with no inside sources, carefully reaching our own journalistic conclusions. The First Amendment does not allow such conduct to be criminalized, as this Act would purport to do. That you, as a newspaper, do not recognize this fact, is dangerous—to all the press. It is to your advantage that the First Amendment protects us, as well as you. You may disagree with our views on the CIA. You may even accept, as you apparently do, the most blatant lies of the U.S.—supported opposition party in Jamaica. But that you would welcome an Official Secrets Act in this country is frightening.

Tour Welf.

William Schaap

Eller RAY

Co-Editors, CovertAction Information Bulletin

Yours, etc.,

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/14 : CIA-RDP90-00845R000100160069-5

THE WASHINGTON STAR, Thursday, July 17, 1980

Another watchman to watch

The Central Intelligence Agency, long since officially declawed and all but disavowed by the government it presumes to serve, is still the target of irrational hostility in this country. In fact, the Ayatollah Khomeini himself, crying "Satanic CIA plot" every time his policies run into opposition from the Iranian people, is no harder on the United States' foreign intelligence-gathering network than certain of its home-grown enemies.

The example of the moment is Louis Wolf, a one-man crusade who boasts of having broken the cover of some 2,000 CIA agents around the world. He does it through books and through a regularly published information bulletin. He does it in the name of First Amendment rights and the wrongness of American intervention in the internal affairs of foreign countries.

When his work appears to get results, as it did when, after he was named as a CIA agent in the Wolf newsletter, N. Richard Kinsman had his house in Jamaica shot up, there's a ready explanation. According to Wolf, the CIA staged the attack to give its agents martyr status.

Undercover maneuvering, however strictly limited to collecting information, invites questionable behavior. Whatever is done in secret is, by definition, hard to police from the outside. Unaccountability is a great corrupter. Unaccountability also inspires paranoia about what other people are up to.

Thus there are legitimate reasons for worrying about any nation's intelligence apparatus. The unfortunate thing is that, in this country, these legitimate concerns so easily become entangled with the facile anti-Americanism of

certain social critics given to measuring what our government does by utopian standards and to evaluating what other governments do by what they profess to intend.

This seems to be the case with Mr. Wolf, who pursues CIA agents with the zeal of a Louis Pasteur trying to track down disease germs. The situation in Jamaica, which he feared the CIA was trying to "destabilize," includes such elements as the Labor party's charges that the government of Prime Minister Michael Manley is collaborating with Cuba to arm and train an extra-legal military force.

Happily, the intelligence-gathering function still has a few friends in the United States. There are even a few people who believe that those who carry out that function should have what protection is possible in their dangerous tasks.

There is even an Intelligence Identities Protection Act under consideration in Congress. Its purpose is to rein in the anti-CIA ardors of a Louis Wolf by penalizing the unauthorized revelation of names and addresses of agents engaged in secret work on behalf of the United States government. It's about time.

Happily, Mr. Kinsman and his family were unharmed by the attack on their house in Jamaica. And if the episode draws attention to the needless peril they were exposed to by Mr. Wolf, it may not be altogether negative in its impact. For that matter, if it draws attention to what seems to be going on between the governments of Cuba and Jamaica, complete with the implications for the United States, that might not be a bad thing either.

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/14: CIA-RDP90-00845R000100160069-5

Covert Action INFORMATION BULLETIN

Covert Action Publications, Inc. P.O. Box 50272 Washington, DC 20004

(202) 265-3904

July 9, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....

In view of the events last week in Kingston, Jamaica, the <u>Covert Action Information Bulletin</u> wishes to set the record straight and clarify certain important issues regarding what happened.

After a week-long period of extensive investigation in Kingston, we uncovered the presence there of 15 CIA personnel -- in CIA terms a very significant increase from the 9 people there in 1976. This included N. Richard Kinsman, the Chief of Station, who in fact we had named over nine months ago in our October 1979 issue. That issue of the <u>Bulletin</u> was widely distributed both here and abroad, including in Jamaica, where we have a number of subscribers many of whom are working journalists. So the press conference last Wednesday was by no means the first time Mr. Kinsman's identity was disclosed publicly. Moreover, on arriving in Kingston -- eight days before the press conference (which we had at that time not planned on holding) -- no less than three Jamaican journalists approached <u>CAIB</u> independently to discuss what they interpreted as being espionage activities on the part of Kinsman. Only one of them had read about his identity in <u>CAIB</u> nine months previously.

There are a number of sharp inconsistencies about the incident leading us to question whether in fact the CIA may not have had a hand in the shooting on the morning of July 3. The circumstances of the incident require close attention.

As pointed out in the <u>New York Times</u>, Mr. Kinsman did not call the police after the shooting, despite the fact that he has working relations with a handful of high police officials. According to journalists in Kingston, he called the <u>Daily Gleaner</u>, the local newspaper close to the opposition Jamaica Labour Party, which has openly called for the overthrow of the government, and is in many facets of its content and format strikingly similar to <u>El Mercurio</u>, the newspaper in Chile which the CIA funded as its main propaganda instrument between 1970 and the violent overthrow of the Salvador Allende government in 1973.

A maid working for Mr. Kinsman and living in the house where the attack occurred, stated that she "heard a noise during the night" but first learned of the incident only when neighbors showed her the bullet holes later. How was she able to sleep through the noise of loud and prolonged machinegun fire and a grenade explosion on the front lawn?

The position of the <u>CovertAction Information Bulletin</u> has always been emphatic on the subject of violence. We are, and have since we started publication two years ago and back to 1974 as well, been completely and unalterably opposed to violence against CIA personnel. We did not just arrive at this position since last Friday's incident. To physically harm CIA officers is definitely not an effective way to oppose the CIA's covert operations. All it achieves is to give them Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/14: CIA-RDP90-00845R000100160069-5

sympathy which they do not deserve. Further, all the CIA will do in such a case is to replace the individual and then carry on its business as usual. While obviously there are many people in Jamaica who are against the CIA's destabilization activities in their country, their call has consistently been for the CIA to leave Jamaica. What is more, if the person(s) behind the shooting outside the Kinsman residence had in fact wanted to kill him, they would have carried out the operation in more than a half-hearted fashion.

There is now a chorus of voices trying to pin blame for the incident on <u>CovertAction Information Bulletin</u>. There is as well the CIA's long-expressed desire to obtain passage in Congress of a pending bill that would make it a criminal offense for anyone, including other journalists who, like us, never worked for the CIA) to name names of intelligence agency personnel. The net result would be to totally stifle the voices of potential whistleblowers in government, or others outside, from discussion of Agency activities. Given the current election-year climate, this is precisely what those who seek to "unleash the CIA" desire.

The CIA has a lot to gain from this attempt to shoot up the home of its top operative in Jamaica -- much more than the many Jamaicans or Americans who stand against CIA covert operations and intervention.

#

Attached is the first part of the press release issued last week in Kingston, Jamaica. For further information, please call the above number.

CovertAction
Information Bulletin
1018 National Press Building
Washington, DC 20045
(202) 265-3904

PRESS RELEASE....

Kingston, Jamaica 2 July 1980

LARGE CIA STATION IN KINGSTON

For two years the <u>CovertAction Information Bulletin</u> has endeavored to expose the abuses of the <u>United States</u> intelligence complex--operations, "dirty tricks," and personnel--especially of the Central Intelligence Agency. We have, in past issues, exposed several CIA officers stationed in Jamaica, and carried articles about what we believe to be a large-scale destabilization program in operation here in Jamaica.

As is to be expected, the U.S. government periodically issues standard denials of these allegations, suggesting that there is nothing out of the ordinary with respect to U.S. operations in Jamaica. We have decided that it is imperative during this most dangerous period in Jamaican history to challenge these protestations in the most effective way we can. We have conducted an extensive and exhaustive investigation into U.S. diplomatic personnel stationed in Jamaica, and have confirmed that the CIA presence here is on the rise.

In 1976, Philip Agee uncovered nine CIA members here; we have uncovered to date at least fifteen, many recently arrived. At least one senior case officer has an extensive background in extremist, right-wing activities. Another of the case officers here has even been assigned to work with a Jamaican government agency. We list in this press release all the particulars of these personnel we have been able to ascertain, and we will elaborate in our press conference.

We oppose most strenuously the unlawful interference by the Central Intelligence Agency in the internal affairs of Jamaica—and all other countries, for that matter. These people must leave Jamaica; there must be no destabilization of Jamaica. The people of Jamaica must openly and in the democratic political arena determine their own destiny, and not be bent to the wishes of the U.S. intelligence forces. Philip Agee exposed the presence in Jamaica of the CIA Chief of Station (Norman M. Descoteaux), the Deputy Chief of Station (Joel H. Beyer), as well as two operations officers, two telecommunications people, two secretaries, and two other State Department officers whom he assessed as being involved in some way with the CIA's operations in Jamaica.

Between that time and 1979, the CIA has assigned one Chief of Station (Dean J. Almy, Jr.), and at least two operations officers, three telecommunications people, and two secretaries to Kingston.

At present, there has been a major increase in the size of the CIA Station. The composition of the Station now is as follows:

- The Chief of Station;
- the Deputy Chief of Station;
- five operations officers (including one former Deputy Chief of Station here from 1976-78 who returned to the island recently, and is now assisting in current operations);
- two telecommications officers, plus one due to arrive within the next two weeks;
- and five secretaries and record-keepers.
- In addition, there is one actual Foreign Service officer who performs some joint activities with the CIA Station, though he is apparently not a CIA officer.

The total CIA complement at the Station then is fifteen people, plus the State Department person who helps out on a part-time basis. It must also be stated that this is, unfortunately, only a partial list. Some may have suddenly left Jamaica in the past few days in anticipation of being identified -- most for the first time, a few who were previously identified for the second time. Additional CIA personnel have in all likelihood come to Jamaica recently to take over the operations of the ones who abruptly left. Other CIA people may prove more difficult to uncover -- be they business people, missionaries, tourists, retired people, or under some other form of "deep cover."

There is in the Kingston Station, as in all CJA bases under diplomatic cover around the world, a division of intelligence operations tasks along particular lines of specialty, including labor, youth and students, media, military and paramilitary or police work, liaison with rightist groups, etc. This division will be made according to the training and experience of the personnel at the Station.

EXCERPTS FROM TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES

Floyd Abrams, House Committee, January 30, 1980:

I appear before you for the primary purpose of urging upon you that Section 501(b) of the proposed legislation—the section relating not to disclosures by agents or the like, but by the rest of us, including the press—is flatly and facially unconstitutional; that it is, as well, unwise; and that, on reflection, it should be rejected. ...

On its face, Section 501(b) would permit the criminal prosecution of any newspaper, broadcaster, publisher, author, journalist or any other citizen who in any way (and however innocently) learns the name or other facts concerning the identity of any agent, informant or the like, that the United States is attempting to keep secret and publishes or otherwise discloses it. ...

The effect of such a statute would be startling and unprecedented. ...

At its core, Section 501(b) flies in the face of a first principle of the First Amendment: While government may try to keep information secret, the disclosure of information which has already become public may not later be criminally punished. Indeed, as phrased by Chief Justice Burger, "The

government cannot restrain publication of whatever information the media acquires--and which they elect to reveal."

Beyond these objections to Section 501(b), I would urge the Committee to consider this question: law aside, even constitutional law aside, is it really necessary for the first time in our nation's history to attempt to make criminal the publication of material which is essentially within the public domain? I would urge upon you that it is not and that whatever you may decide to do with respect to the disclosure by CIA agents or the like, that you adopt no legislation which bars the rest of the American people from disclosing fully the activities of our Government of which they learn. To do otherwise would not only deprive the public of information: it would deprive us all of credibility as we deal with each other--press with public, citizens with each other.

Ford Rowan, House Committee, January 30, 1980:

I have tried my best to avoid letting where I sit (in the press gallery) determine where I stand on this issue.

But as a journalist I cannot consider this legislation without becoming concerned about preserving First Amendment rights. ...

As for the second category of potential offender under the legislation, the category which would include the press, my objections are much more strenuous. First, unlike CIA or military intelligence officers, reporters have taken no oath to keep secrets. Second, reporters should not be forced by Congress to--in effect--take a secrecy oath. That's what this bill would do. Yet reporters violate their responsibility as disseminators of information when they are forced into keeping secrets rather than permitted to evaluate whether what they have learned should be published. ...

I do not think that the inclusion of this second category of individuals who would be subject to criminal penalties for divulging the names of intelligence operatives will do very much to prevent such disclosures. ... Look how unsuccessful the federal government was when it tried to enjoin publication of the Progressive magazine article on how to build an H bomb. If you cannot stop disclosure of atomic secrets I doubt if the government could stop disclosure of the names of some of its spies. Spilling H bomb secrets seems much more threatening to national survival.

The H bomb article was based in part on unclassified information available in government libraries open to the public. That factor in that episode could have relevance to our discussion today, for this bill would punish a reporter who combed through open sources such as biographical registers to identify covert officers and agents. The government extracts a high price from journalists when it seeks to punish them for revealing what the government itself was too inept to keep secret.

It is well known that for years it was possible to identify CIA personnel on embassy staffs by checking State

Department registers... So before you try to punish the outsiders I think you could tighten secrecy and use more

care in choosing those who will know the secrets.

That is the path I would recommend for you: strengthening the internal government process for these intelligence agencies while avoiding new prohibitions which unconstitutionally
interfere with freedom of the press. ...

While First Amendment guarantees may not be absolute, they should be tampered with very cautiously. This proposed legislation is unnecessary, unworkable, and unconstitutional.

American Civil Liberties Union, House Committee, January 30, 1980:

As Chairman Boland candidly stated in his remarks on the floor of the House when introducing H.R. 5615, Section 501(b) "could subject a private citizen to criminal prosecution for disclosing unclassified information obtained from unclassified sources." ...

We believe that this prohibition is unconstitutional and unwise because it would chill public debate on matters of great public importance. Recognizing the importance of public discussion of national security matters, the courts have found punishing dissemination or publication of information in the public domain constitutionally defective.

In testimony before this Committee, Deputy Assistant
Attorney General Robert L. Keuch speaking for the Justice
Department accurately and succinctly summed up the decisions
of the courts as holding that no one can be convicted of
espionage or the compromise of information relating to the

national defense "if the information was made available to the public, or if the government did not attempt to restrict its dissemination or if the information was available to everyone from lawfully accessible sources." ...

As far as we are aware, the Department of Justice has never challenged this interpretation of the Constitution and has never advocated the enactment of a statute which would punish one who analyzes unclassified information and publishes the result.

Any effort to do so would violate the First Amendment right of all persons to engage in free and robust lebate on public matters without the chilling effect which would come from the fear of a prosecution under the proposed statute. ...

In our view, the inhibition on public discussion is not cured by the requirement that the government prove from evidence other than the disclosure itself that a person acted with the "intent to impair or impede the foreign intelligence activities of the United States." Would criticism of CIA activities indicate an "intent to impair or impede?" What if the foreign intelligence activity impeded were illegal? ...

Mr. Chairman, in our view this section of H.R. 5615 is vague and overbroad and clearly unconstitutional. ... Based on the examples, we do not believe that even limiting disclosure to classified matters would cure the defect. As long as this legislation includes any provisions which can reach those who have not had authorized access to classified information we would have no choice but to vigorously oppose its passage.

American Civil Liberties Union, Senate Committee, June 25, 1980:

We would urge that any legislation be deliberately considered and that the precise wording be subject to careful scrutiny. Our own current views may be summarized as follows:

--Even a relatively broad bill would not be able to deal with what is the main current concern, namely the publication in the <u>CovertAction Information Bulletin</u> of the names of CIA station chiefs and other prominent CIA officials. Those listings derive from unclassified information. It is our firm view that any statute which purported to punish private citizens for using unclassified information would be unconstitutional. ...

No bill which is conceivably constitutional can, in fact, prevent the publication by the <u>CovertAction Information Bulletin</u> or by other publications in the United States or abroad of the names of CIA officers who are assigned to positions in American embassies.

The simple truth is that those individuals are only under what is referred to as light cover. The CIA has never had any real confidence that the identity of those officials would be kept from foreign intelligence services, host governments, or even from the local or American press. Anyone who has traveled abroad or who now travels abroad to engage in newsgathering activities or political activities of any kind can tell you that the CIA officers at a particular embassy are widely known not only within the diplomatic community but within the local and American press communities and within the political community of the host country.

7

The individuals are not identified as being with the CIA almost entirely for diplomatic reasons. That is, most governments do not want to formally acknowledge the fact that the United States or other countries have intelligence agencies operating within their embassies and enjoying diplomatic immunity, but they all know that is going on and anybody in the country with an interest in finding out who the CIA station chief is can readily do so. ...

We would urge this committee to look at the original, uncensored Church Committee discussion of cover and to take with a great deal of skepticism any assertion that these names cannot be derived from a combination of public sources and local gossip. In fact, manuals and directories published by the United States government enable anyone using simply public sources and publicly available methods of analysis to deduce who is or might very well be a CIA agent. There is no way we believe constitutionally to punish the disclosure of such deductions. If that cannot be done there is no way to prevent the publication of lists of names of CIA officers.